

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 01667 061015Z

11
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
----- 051211

R 060928Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0434
INFO CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 1667

EXDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MASS, RP
SUBJECT: HONOLULU VISIT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR

REFS: A. CINCPAC 060217Z FEB 75
B. MANILA 1494

1. JUST TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON MELCHOR'S
CONVERSATIONS WITH ME PRIOR HIS RECENT VISIT TO CINCPAC,
I FEEL I SHOULD REPORT FOLLOWING:

A. THERE WAS NO RPT NO MENTION OF FOUR BATTALIONS
OF NEWLY EQUIPPED TROOPS FOR THE SOUTH (I SUSPECT THAT
CAME OUT OF MILITARY MEETING WHICH FOLLOWED MY SESSION
WITH MARCOS REPORTED REFTEL).

B. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF PURCHASING
CADILLAC-GAGE ARMORED CARS. MARCOS AUTHORIZED ESPINO
TO CONTRACT FOR UNSPECIFIED NUMBER BASED ON TESTS CONDUCTED
ON MODEL CURRENTLY IN COUNTRY.

C. THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF COASTAL RADAR FOR
MARITIME SURVEILLANCE. I EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT CAPABILITY
COASTAL RADAR TO DETECT SMALL INFILTRATING BANCAS. IT WAS
ON THIS SPECIFIC SUBJECT THAT I SUGGESTED MELCHOR SEEK
TECHNICAL ADVICE OF CINCPACFLT HEADQUARTERS.

D. THERE WAS INQUIRY ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF SURPLUS
ARMOR (PARTICULARLY APC'S) FROM JAPAN OR OTHER SOURCE.

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JUSMAG IS CHECKING THIS.

2. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES HAVE
TAKEN SOME HARD KNOWCKS IN THE SOUTH AND THAT MNLF EQUIPMENT
IS IMPROVING. THEY HAVE 81MM MORTARS OF FRENCH
MANUFACTURE, AS WELL AS BELGIAN FN, ETC. HOWEVER, UNTIL
PHILS PUT TOGETHER A COHERENT REQUEST PROCESSED THROUGH
JUSMAG, IT WILL BE HARD FOR US TO EXPRESS A JUDGMENT ON
ACTION WHICH WE CAN RECOMMEND.
SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA01667
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750043-0785
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750267/aaaachxy.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 CINCPAC 060217Z, 75 FEB 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HONOLULU VISIT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR
TAGS: PINS, MASS, RP, US, (MELCHOR, ALEJANDRO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006